

## David Domenici—2013 Bio

David is the Director of the [Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings](#). David started the Center in the fall of 2011. The Center's mission is to radically improve the quality of education provided to our nation's most at-risk and underserved students: low-income, minority teenagers and young adults who are attending schools in alternative settings, including youth and adult correctional facilities.

David has been working with at-risk and court-involved youth for 15 years. 1997, he quit his job as a corporate lawyer, and along with a colleague, started the Maya Angelou Public Charter School—a school designed for court-involved teens. Over the next 10 years David served as the organization's Executive Director, while also serving as the Principal of its initial campus. In 2007, Maya Angelou was asked to take over the school at Oak Hill, the Washington, DC's long-term juvenile correctional facility—long considered one of the worst juvenile prisons in the nation. David designed the school program, hired all the staff, and became the founding Principal of the school, called the Maya Angelou Academy. David left the Maya Angelou Academy in the fall of 2011 to start the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings.

David is an Ashoka and Echoing Green Fellow, and is a graduate of Stanford Law School and the University of Virginia. In addition to his work with Maya Angelou, David has experience working in corporate finance and practicing law. He started his first nonprofit, DCWorks, at the age of 22. He lives in Washington, DC, with his partner, Cheryl Mills, and their two children, Lucca and Indigo.

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